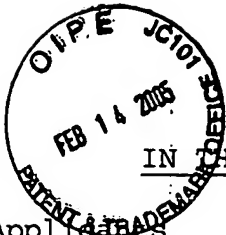


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1725

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Takayuki Takahashi et al.  
Confirmation No: 2825  
Serial No. : 10/673,993  
Filed : September 29, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 1725  
Examiner : L. R. Edmondson

Docket No. : 03-616  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated November 15, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire February 15, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 5 of this paper.